

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION OF 25 JANUARY 2006

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CENTRAL FAX CENTERSERIAL NO: 10/618,500  
DOCKET NO: 149-0105US

FEB 22 2006

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Replace the paragraph 19 (beginning on page 8, line 1), with the following rewritten paragraph. This amendment introduces no new matter.

**[0001]** As shown, each data object record in buffer **400** (e.g., record-1 **405** and record-N **410**) has a corresponding record in key structure **440** (e.g., key record-1 **450** **[[445]]** and key record-N **455** **[[450]]**), wherein each key record comprises a padded key field (e.g., **460** and **465**), a data pointer field (e.g., **470** and **475**) and a next pointer field (e.g., **480** and **485**). Padded key fields **460** and **465** represent the combined padded key fields for each record and, as such, are of fixed length. Data pointer fields **470** and **475** point back to that data record from which the key record's padded key field was extracted. That is, data pointer field **470** points to record-1 **405** and data pointer field **475** points to record-N **410**. Next pointer fields **480** and **485** point to the next record in key structure **440**.